

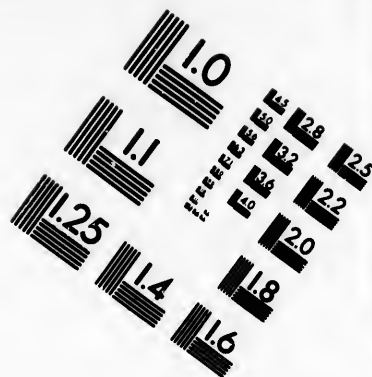
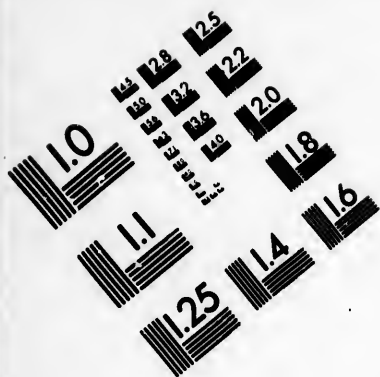
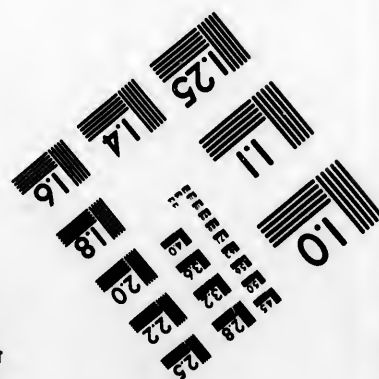
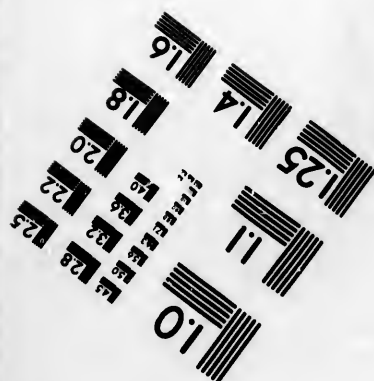
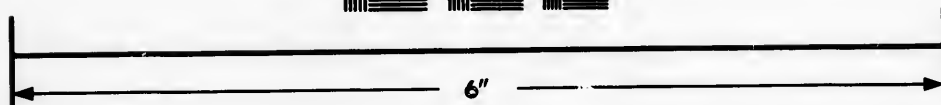
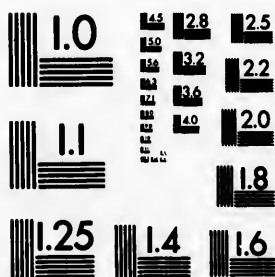


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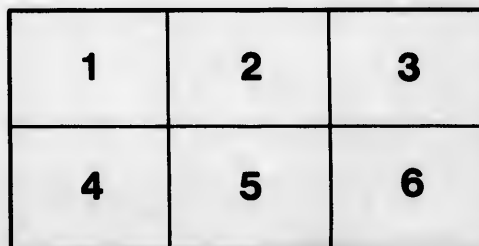
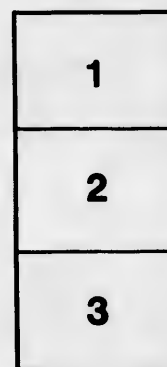
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For Love's Sake.

BY MRS. MARGARET J. PRESTON.

YOU have read of the Moslem palace—
The marvellous fane that stands
On the banks of the distant Jumna,
The wonder of all the lands.*

You have read of its marble splendors,
Its carvings of rare device,
Its domes and its towers that glisten
Like visions of Paradise.

You have listened, as one has told you
Of its pinnacles snowy-fair—
So pure that they seemed suspended
Like clouds in the crystal air.

Of the flow of its fountains, falling
As softly as mourners' tears;
Of the lily and rose kept blooming
For over two hundred years;

Of the friezes of frost-like beauty,
 The jewels that crust the wall,
 The carvings that crown the arch-way,
 The innermost shrine of all;

Where lies in her sculptured coffin
 (Whose chiselings mortal man
 Hath never excelled), the dearest
 Of the loves of the Shah Jehán.

They read you the shining legends
 Whose letters are set in gems,
 On the walls of the sacred chamber
 That sparkle like diadems.

And they tell you these letters, gleaming
 Wherever the eye may look,
 Are words of the Moslem Prophet,
 Are texts from his holy book.

And still as you heard, you questioned
 Right wonderingly, as you must,
 "Why rear such a palace only
 To shelter a woman's dust?"

Why rear it? The Shah had promised
 His beautiful Nourmahál,
 To do it, because he loved her—
 He loved her, and that was all!

So, minaret, wall and column,
 And tower and dome above,
 All tell of a sacred promise,
 All utter one accent—LOVE.

YOU know of another temple,
 A grander than Hindoo shrine,
 The splendor of whose perfections
 Is mystical, strange, divine.

You have read of its deep foundations,
 Which neither the frost, nor flood,
 Nor forces of earth can weaken,
 Cemented in tears and blood.

That, chosen with skill transcendent,
 By the wisdom that fills the Throne,
 Was quarried, and hewed, and polished,
 Its wonderful Corner-Stone.

So vast is its scale proportioned,
 So lofty its turrets rise,
 That the pile in its finished glory
 Will reach to the very skies.

The lapse of the silent Kedron,
 The roses of Sharon fair,
 Gethsemane's sacred olives
 And cedars, are round it there.

And graved on its walls and pillars,
 And cut in its crystal stone,
 Are the words of our Prophet, sweeter
 Than Islam's hath ever known—

Texts culled from the Holy Gospel,
 That comfort, refresh, sustain,
 And shine with a rarer lustre
 Than the gems of the Hindoo fane.

The plan of the temple only
Its Architect understands;
And yet He accepts (oh, wonder!)
The helping of human hands?

And so, for the work's progression,
He is willing that great and small
Should bring Him their bits of carving,
So needed to fill the wall.

Not one does the Master-BUILDER
Disdainfully cast away;
Why, even He takes the chippings
We women have brought to-day!

Oh, not to the dead—To the Living,
We rear on the earth He trod,
This fane to His lasting glory—
This Church to the Christ of God!

Why labor and strive? We have promised
(And dare we the vow recall?)
To do it, because we love Him—
We love Him—and that is all!

For over the Church's portal,
Each pillar and arch above,
The Master has set one signet,
And graven one watchword—LOVE.

*The Taj, erected at the city of Agra, India, in 1635, by the Shah Jehan,
to the memory of his best-beloved wife, Nourmahal.

